



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,608	08/04/2003	Scott H. Mills	SBC 0122 PA	1607
27256	7590	03/21/2006	EXAMINER	
ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C. 28333 TELEGRAPH RD. SUITE 250 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034			HONEYCUTT, KRISTINA B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2178	

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/604,608	Applicant(s) MILLS ET AL.	
	Examiner Kristina B. Honeycutt	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-10 and 12-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-10 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed December 28, 2005.

This action is made **Final**.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-20 remain pending in the case. Claims 5 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 10 and 12 are independent claims.

3. The rejections of Claims 1-8, 10-14, 16, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koss (U.S. Patent 5272628; date of patent December 21, 1993; filed April 16, 1990), Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss in view of Dittrich et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20020083016; publication date June 27, 2002; filed December 22, 2000), Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss in view of Worden (U.S. Pub. No. 20030149934; publication date August 7, 2003; filed May 11, 2001), Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss in view of Reed et al. (U.S. Patent 5396587; date of patent March 7, 1995; filed April 11, 1990), Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss in view of Anson (U.S. Pub. No. 20030061193; publication date March 27, 2003; filed September 24, 2001) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2178

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 16, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss (U.S. Patent 5272628; date of patent December 21, 1993; filed April 16, 1990) in view of Lowry (U.S. Pub. No. 20020042859; publication date April 11, 2002; filed May 4, 2001; provisional application filed October 6, 2000).

Regarding independent claim 1, Koss teaches receiving a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets (Figures 2, 3; col. 1, lines 59-64; col. 2, lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 1-2, 11-15, 25-38; col. 4, lines 1-15) since Koss teaches using selected spreadsheets to generate other spreadsheets so the selections would have to be received.

Koss further teaches receiving a selection of portions of data from files corresponding to each of said plurality of spreadsheets (Figures 2, 3; col. 1, lines 59-64; col. 3, lines 11-15, 25-38; col. 4, lines 1-15) since Koss teaches portions are selected from among the spreadsheets.

Koss further teaches retrieving said portions of data (Figures 2, 3; col. 3, lines 25-38) since Koss teaches portions of data are retrieved.

Koss further teaches generating at least one final report spreadsheet (Figures 2, 3; col. 3, lines 11-15, 25-38) since Koss teaches a final report is generated.

Art Unit: 2178

Koss further teaches appending said portions of data to said at least one final report spreadsheet (Figure 2; col. 2, lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 1-2, 11-15) since Koss teaches the portions are appended to the final report.

Koss does not disclose receiving selections via a graphical control panel. Lowry teaches selecting files using a control panel (Figure 5; p.6, para. 86). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Koss and Lowry before him at the time the invention was made, to modify selecting spreadsheets as taught by Koss to include a control panel as taught by Lowry, because Koss teaches selecting spreadsheets on a computer (Figures 2, 3; col. 1, lines 59-64; col. 2, lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 1-2, 11-15, 25-38; col. 4, lines 1-15) and Lowry teaches selecting files using a control panel on a computer (Figure 5; p.6, para. 86) so the computer taught by Koss could include a control panel for making the selections.

Regarding dependent claims 2 and 3, Koss discloses methods as in claim 1 further comprising receiving a selection of at least one workbook and receiving a selection of at least one open workbook or stored workbook (col. 1, lines 59-64) since Koss discloses selecting a plurality of source tables. Since the source tables are capable of being selected, they are either already open or are saved and can comprise a workbook.

Regarding dependent claim 4, Koss discloses a method as in claim 1 further comprising receiving a selection of at least one worksheet (Figures 2, 3; col. 1, lines 59-64; col. 2, lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 1-2, 11-15, 25-38; col. 4, lines 1-15).

Regarding dependent claim 6, Koss discloses a method as in claim 1 wherein receiving a selection of portions of data comprises selecting at least one of rows, columns, cells, tables, filenames, workbook names, worksheet names, and spreadsheet names of at least one file corresponding to said plurality of spreadsheets (col. 4, lines 1-15) since Koss teaches rows and columns are selected.

Regarding dependent claim 7, Koss discloses a method as in claim 1 wherein receiving a selection of portions of data comprises searching for desired text within said plurality of spreadsheets (col. 1, lines 59-67; col. 2, lines 1-8) since Koss teaches spreadsheets are searched for desired portions.

Regarding dependent claim 8, Koss discloses a method as in claim 1 further comprising appending data to said at least one final report spreadsheet that is not within said plurality of spreadsheets (col. 3, lines 11-15, 25-38).

Regarding independent claim 10, the claim reflects the software program for performing the operations of claims 1 and 7 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 12, Koss teaches a monitor (Abstract) since a computer system is disclosed that generates an aggregated spreadsheet so a monitor would be included to display the sheet.

Art Unit: 2178

Koss further teaches a storage device (Figure 2; col. 2, lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 1-2, 11-15, 25-38) since a final report is generated that stores portions of spreadsheets so a storage device is present.

Koss further teaches a spreadsheet selection area for receiving a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets (Figures 2, 3; col. 1, lines 59-64; col. 2, lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 1-2, 11-15, 25-38; col. 4, lines 1-15) since Koss teaches using selected spreadsheets to generate other spreadsheets so the selections would have to be received.

Koss further teaches a custom search module for receiving a selection of at least a portion of each of said selected plurality of spreadsheets (col. 1, lines 59-67; col. 2, lines 1-8) since spreadsheets are searched for desired portions.

Koss further teaches generating at least one final report spreadsheet and appending said selected portions of each of said selected plurality of spreadsheets to said at least one final report spreadsheet (Figures 2, 3; col. 2, lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 11-15, 25-38) since Koss teaches a final report is generated and the portions are appended to the final report.

Koss does not disclose a controller displaying a graphical control panel on said monitor. Lowry teaches a control panel displayed for making file selections (Figure 5; p.6, para. 86). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Koss and Lowry before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the system taught by Koss to include a control panel as taught by Lowry, because Koss teaches selecting spreadsheets on a computer (Figures 2, 3; col. 1, lines 59-64; col. 2,

Art Unit: 2178

lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 1-2, 11-15, 25-38; col. 4, lines 1-15) and Lowry teaches selecting files using a control panel on a computer (Figure 5; p.6, para. 86) so the computer taught by Koss could include a control panel for making the selections.

Regarding dependent claims 13, 14 and 16, the claims reflect the multiple spreadsheet data consolidation system for performing the operations of claims 2, 3 and 4 respectively and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding dependent claim 17, Koss discloses a system as in claim 16 wherein said worksheet selection area comprises a worksheet subset selector (col. 3, lines 25-38) since a subset of a worksheet is selected.

Regarding dependent claim 20, Koss discloses a system as in claim 12 further comprising at least one window for receiving a selection of said plurality of spreadsheets and said at least a portion of each of said selected plurality of spreadsheets (Abstract; Figures 2, 3; col. 1, lines 59-64; col. 2, lines 64-67; col. 3, lines 1-2, 11-15, 25-38; col. 4, lines 1-15) since spreadsheets and portions of spreadsheets are selected and a computer system is disclosed that generates an aggregated spreadsheet so a window would be included to display the sheet.

Art Unit: 2178

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss in view of Lowry in further view of Dittrich et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20020083016; publication date June 27, 2002; filed December 22, 2000).

Regarding dependent claim 9, Koss discloses a custom spreadsheet search associated with a plurality of spreadsheets and said selected portions of data (col. 1, lines 59-67; col. 2, lines 1-8) but does not disclose storing the custom search. Dittrich teaches storing a custom search (p.2, para. 21). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Koss and Dittrich before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the search taught by Koss to include storing searches as taught by Dittrich, because storing a custom search would store user preferences in the system, as taught by Dittrich (p.2, para. 21), which could be quickly accessed in the future.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss in view of Lowry in further view of Worden (U.S. Pub. No. 20030149934; publication date August 7, 2003; filed May 11, 2001).

Regarding dependent claim 15, Koss does not disclose workbook selection are comprises a workbook search in a selected database. Worden teaches searching for and selecting a workbook (p.47, para. 1045). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Koss and Worden before him at the time

Art Unit: 2178

the invention was made, to modify selecting a workbook as taught by Koss to include searching for a workbook as taught by Worden, because searching for a workbook, as taught by Worden (p.47, para. 1045), would allow users to browse stored workbooks in order to find the desired book.

7. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss in view of Lowry in further view of Reed et al. (U.S. Patent 5396587; date of patent March 7, 1995; filed April 11, 1990).

Regarding dependent claim 18, Koss does not disclose a status indicator. Reed teaches a status indicator (Figure 1; col. 4, lines 21-27). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Koss and Reed before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the system taught by Koss to include a status indicator as taught by Reed, because a status indicator, as taught by Reed (Figure 1; col. 4, lines 21-27), would allow users to quickly view the status of the consolidation.

8. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss in view of Lowry in further view of Anson (U.S. Pub. No. 20030061193; publication date March 27, 2003; filed September 24, 2001).

Regarding dependent claim 19, Koss does not disclose an event logger. Anson teaches an event logger (p.3, para. 32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

Art Unit: 2178

skill in the art, having the teachings of Koss and Anson before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the system taught by Koss to include an event logger as taught by Anson, because an event logger, as taught by Anson (p.3, para. 32), would allow users to look up past events when necessary.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed December 28, 2005 with respect to claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2178

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- System and methods for improved spreadsheet interface with user-familiar objects (U.S. Patent 6282551);
- Method in connection with a spreadsheet program (U.S. Pub. No. 20030226105).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristina B. Honeycutt whose telephone number is 571-272-4123. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

Art Unit: 2178

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KBH
KBH

Cesar B Paula
CESAR PAULA
PRIMARY EXAMINER